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BOROUGH OF BECCLES



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1960



MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
Suffolk.

B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

H. E. NUTTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E. H. CRANMER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT INSPECTORS (part-time)

J. C. TAYLOR, M.R.C.V.S.

P. F. ROE, M.R.C.V.S.

M. P. KEARNS, M.R.C.V.S.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES.
SUFFOLK.

JUNE, 1961.

Tel.No. Beccles 3113.

B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1960

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Beccles Borough Council.

Your Worship, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1960.

The estimated mid-1960 population is 7,040 as compared with 6,960 for the corresponding period of the previous year. A more accurate estimate of the population will, of course, be obtained when the results of the 1961 Census are made available.

The number of live births has dropped slightly and the Adjusted Birth Rate is still much lower than the Average for England and Wales.

Apart from 1957 when the figure was also 81 the number of deaths is the lowest on record for at least eleven years and the Adjusted Death Rate is lower than the National Average.

Measles was the most prevalent Infectious Disease notifiable and occurred mostly in the 5 - 9 age group in December of the year and continued into 1961.

The number of persons on the tuberculosis register remains about the same at 35 persons.

At the request of the Ministry of Health information on water supplies, swimming pool and sewerage is included.

Bathing Pool

The swimming pool is situated in Pudding Moor, by the River Waveney near the centre of the Town, measures 100 ft. x 50 ft., and is 3 ft. deep at the shallow end. There is a 12 ft. diving pit at the deep end. It is constructed of re-inforced concrete, finished in blue enamel, with a perimeter scum channel. There is concrete decking, with turf and flower beds surrounding. There are footbaths at the entrance to the Pool, and spectators are separated from the surround by a guard rail. Electricity and mains water supply are available and it is anticipated that main sewerage will be provided within a year.

The Pool is filled at the outset of the season by mains water supply. Treatment is by filtration, aeration cascade and breakpoint chlorination, with chemical dosage of soda and alumina to control pH. The water is changed every 7 hours at the rate of 524 gallons per minute. 'Topping up' is from the mains water supply.

The following is a typical Chemical Analysis:-

Appearance	Clear
Deposit	Nil
Colour	Nil
Taste	Satisfactory
Odour	Nil
pH	7.0
Reaction	Neutral

Parts per million

Chlorine as Chlorides	54
Total Hardness	315
Alkalinity	230
Free Carbon Dioxide	30
Iron	0.12

A typical bacteriological report reads as follows:-

Nature of sample - Water from Bathing Pool, Pudding Moor.

Date of Arrival - 7.6.60.

Date of Report - 9.6.60.

Probable number of Coliform bacilli - 0 per 100 ml.

Water Supply

The quality of the water has always been excellent and the quantity adequate without restriction.

Copies of typical Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses are included in the Public Health Inspector's report. Bacteriological examinations of raw and treated water are taken quarterly by the Borough Engineer and at regular intervals by the Public Health Inspector from taps in dwelling houses.

The number of houses supplied from public water mains is approximately 2630 and the approximate population supplied 7,022.

No houses are supplied by stand pipes.

The water supplies show the characteristic hardness of East Anglia supplies. There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action and no contamination of any form occurred during the year.

Sewerage

The sewerage system is reasonably adequate except for certain trunk sewers of decayed brick construction which are surcharged in times of storm. The Council have a remedial scheme of relief sewers under review.

Two small areas where main sewerage does not exist are to be sewered within the next few months. On completion, only 27 dwellings will remain, at scattered outlying sites, not connected to mains sewerage system.

A new sewage disposal works is most urgently needed to serve the entire Borough. The existing works are extremely old, primitive and hopelessly inadequate to treat present flows received. The new works are to be constructed at a cost exceeding £100,000 and the anticipated commencement date is early 1962.

H. E. NUTTEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES.
SUFFOLK.

June, 1961.

Tel. Beccles 3113.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,017
Registrar-General's estimate of population (mid-1960)	7,040
Number of inhabited houses.. .. .	2,637
Rateable Value	£93,071
Product of Penny Rate (Estimated)	£375

	Beccles M.B.	England & Wales
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Number	88	-
Rate per 1,000 population	12.5	17.1
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Per cent of total live births	2.27	-
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>		
Number	4	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	43.5	19.7
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>	92	
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (deaths under 1 year)	2	-
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	22.7	21.7
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.3	×
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	×
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	11.36	×
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	11.36	×
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	54.34	×
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u> (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	Nil	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	Nil	×

× Not yet available.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	TOTAL
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Total	43	45	88
Legitimate	43	43	86
Illegitimate	-	2	2
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Total	3	1	4
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total	-	2	2
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE</u>			
Total	-	1	1
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE</u>			
Total	-	1	1
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS - ALL AGES</u>			
	36	45	81

RATES

	Beccles M.B.	England & Wales
Illegitimacy rate (per 1,000 live births)	22.7	✖
Adjusted Birth Rate	13.25	-
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.50	11.5
Adjusted Death Rate	9.5	-

Comparability Factor (Births) - 1.06

Comparability Factor (Deaths) - 0.83

✖ not yet available.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	4	3	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	8	12
18. Coronary disease, angina	8	6	14
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease	8	14	22
21. Other circulatory diseases	1	-	1
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	3	-	3
24. Bronchitis	-	1	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	1	4	5
35. Suicide	-	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	<u>36</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>81</u>

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DURING THE YEARS 1952-1960

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION
1952	-	-	-	-
1953	1	2	3	0.43
1954	1	1	2	0.28
1955	1	1	2	0.28
1956	1	-	1	0.13
1957	2	1	3	0.43
1958	-	-	-	-
1959	4	-	4	0.57
1960	2	1	3	0.43
TOTAL	12	6	18	

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATE : COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local birth rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower, and a small proportion tends to raise the true rate. The size of this proportion will vary in different areas and, there, the elimination or standardization of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar General issues a comparability factor on these lines. Multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by the comparability factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to the above. The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population materially affects its comparison by sex and age groups, are also adjusted on that account. Death rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. Birth rate area comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

TABLE SHOWING THE MORE IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES

CAUSE OF DEATH	NO. OF DEATHS		PERCENTAGE	
	1959	1960	1959	1960
Diseases of circulatory system	37	37	38.15	45.68
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	12	18.56	14.81
Malignant diseases	10	15	10.30	18.52
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	10	4	10.30	4.93
Influenza	1	-	1.03	-
All other causes	21	13	21.64	16.05
TOTAL	97	81	99.98	99.99

In 1960, 79% of all deaths fell under the first three headings, The comparable figure for 1959 was 67% and for 1958 was 80%.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	Y E A R										
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Population	6,862	6,829	6,903	6,965	7,050	7,130	7,060	7,000	6,980	6,960	7,040
No. of inhabited houses	2,362	2,400	2,427	2,520	2,550	2,580	2,590	2,603	2,606	2,641	2,637
No. of live Births	79	78	99	99	95	75	87	96	100	99	88
Birth Rate (Crude)	11.6	11.4	14.3	14.2	13.5	10.5	12.3	13.7	14.3	14.2	12.5
No. of Still Births	4	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	4
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate	25.3	12.8	30.3	0	10.5	26.7	34.5	20.8	0	30.3	22.7
(No. of Deaths)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(3)	(2)
No. of Deaths (all ages)	88	108	92	82	103	107	112	81	95	97	81
Death Rate (Crude)	12.9	15.8	13.4	11.7	14.6	15.0	15.8	11.6	13.6	13.9	11.5

NUMBER OF ALL CONFIRMED CASES OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1960 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

AGE	MEASLES			SALMONELLA FOOD POISONING		
	M	F	T	M	F	T
Under 1	-	1	1	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 -	-	1	1	-	-	-
4 -	-	1	1	-	-	-
5 - 9	14	19	33	1	-	1
10 - 14	1	-	1	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	1	-	1
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 or over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	15	23	38	2	-	2

17 Males plus 23 Females - 40

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO MONTH OF OCCURENCE

	MEASLES	SALMONELLA FOOD POISONING
January	-	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	-	-
June	-	-
July	-	-
August	-	-
September	-	-
October	1	-
November	-	2
December	37	-
TOTAL	38	2

GRAND TOTAL - 40

TUBERCULOSIS

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
No.of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1959	25	2	6	3	36
No.of cases added during the year	-	-	-	1	1
No.of cases removed during the year	1	-	1	-	2
No.of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1960	24	2	5	4	35

<u>CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER</u>			<u>CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER</u>		
New Notifications	-	1	Recovered	-	1
Inward Transfer	-	-	Died	-	0
			Removed to other Areas	-	1
TOTAL	-	1	TOTAL	-	2

CASES ON THE REGISTER, ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1960

AGE GROUP	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 5 years	1	-	1
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	3	4	7
25 - 44 years	13	4	17
45 - 64 years	8	1	9
65 years and over	1	-	1
Age unknown	-	-	-
TOTAL	26	9	35

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	97	-	-
iii. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	54	99	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of clean- liness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ven- tilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drain- age of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveni- ences (S.7)					
a. Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

There was one outworker on the August list required by Section 110(1)(c)(2) engaged on the making, etc. of wearing apparel.

There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council, and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1960

To:-
His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the Beccles Borough Council.

I present my twelfth Annual Report since my appointment in May, 1949 as the Council's Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The attention of the Council has been drawn on many occasions to the inadequate and crude sewage disposal system of the Borough.

It is therefore a pleasure to be able to record that the major decision to start work on the provision of an adequate system of sewage disposal, in keeping with modern requirements, was taken during 1960.

Its fulfillment will mean the removal of a serious nuisance to many residents in the northern part of the Borough, and will provide Beccles with one of the very fundamentals of a healthy environment - proper sewage disposal.

The provision of sewerage to Puddingmoor and the remainder of Darby Road is to be undertaken as part of the main scheme.

This will leave only a few premises without sewerage - mostly in isolated positions, where it would be an uneconomic proposition to provide it.

The following works in connection with drainage and sanitation were carried out during the year as a result of the service of notices:-

Cleanse blocked drains	19
Repair defective drains	24
Seal off disused drains	10
Abolish cesspool and connect to sewer	1
Abolish disused sanitary accommodation	1

Refuse Collection

This service continued to be under the control of the Borough Engineer, a weekly service being provided.

Disposal was by controlled tipping.

Six notices were served requiring the provision of proper dust bins.

Water Supply

The water supply of the Borough continued to be provided by the Barsham Bores Joint Water Committee, which serves the Borough of Beccles, the Rural Districts of Lothingland and Wainford, and part of the Borough of Lowestoft.

It is likely that during the coming year the re-grouping into larger undertakings directed by the Government will take effect, and that the Committee will become part of a larger Authority.

The water supplied to the Borough was adequate to meet all needs, and was of a uniformly excellent quality, both chemically and bacteriologically, the following reports being typical:-

LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD LTD.

Clarence House,
6 Clarence Road,
NORWICH.

19th October, 1960.

	<u>Raw Water</u>	<u>Treated Water</u>
Appearance	slightly opalescent	clear
Deposit	yellow deposit	
Colour	iron compounds	nil
Odour	slightly yellow	nil
pH	nil	nil
Reaction	6.9	7.3
	neutral	neutral

	<u>Parts per million</u>	
Chlorine as chlorides	52	52
Total Hardness	320	320
Temporary Hardness	235	250
Permanent Hardness	85	70
Alkalinity	235	250
Free Carbon Dioxide	42.5	22
Iron	4.3	0.01

These analyses follow the usual lines. The iron content of the water has been reduced practically to nil in the treated water and the free carbon dioxide has been satisfactorily reduced.

for Lincolne Sutton and Wood Ltd.

Signed. Eric C. Wood.

- - - - -

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

Woodbridge Road East,
IPSWICH.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Probable numbers per 100 ml.</u>	
	<u>Coliform baccilli</u>	<u>Bact.coli.</u>
		<u>(Type 1)</u>
Tap - Barsham, Nr. Beccles	0	
Tap - Barsham, Nr. Beccles	0	

Signed. J. M. S. Dixon.

- - - - -

The most important event of the year in connection with water supplies was the provision of a new high level tower at South Road. This enabled two obsolescent water towers which formerly supplied the higher parts of the Borough to be abolished, and greatly improved water pressure to be provided to these areas.

These included six houses in London Road reliant on wells supplying unsatisfactory water. All have now been provided with a mains water supply.

There remain in the Borough seven premises still reliant on wells. All have been sampled chemically and bacteriologically and with one exception they are in isolated positions.

Notices were served requiring the following works in connection with water supplies:-

Abolish well supplies and provide piped water	8
Renew defective water service pipes	2

Abatement of Nuisances

The pollution of the atmosphere by smoke has not been a great Public Health problem during the year, the Borough being fortunate in that its industries are not for the most part, excessively smoke producing.

One factory has been a source of trouble for many years. Its enlargement and the conversion of the boiler to oil burning should abate this nuisance in the near future. Representations were made to the owners of one further factory during the year, and modifications to the boiler have resulted in an improvement.

In a further case, the ventilators from space heaters at a factory were modified, and a nuisance from smoke and grit consequently abated.

Four complaints were dealt with concerning poultry, rabbits, etc. being kept in unsuitable places.

Bathing Pool

The Council's new Bathing Pool, the subject of a detailed report by the Medical Officer of Health, was in use for the second season during 1960.

In complete contrast to its fore-runner which had been a cause of concern for many years, the water in it was found to be of a uniformly high standard both chemically and bacteriologically during the regular sampling which was undertaken.

HOUSING

Demolition of Unfit Houses

One unfit house which became vacant during the year was presented to the Council by a generous owner so that a blind corner could be improved, on condition that a gable exposed by demolition was rendered weather-proof.

It was represented to the Council that a further house owned by them was unfit and should not be re-let, and this recommendation was accepted.

The chief difficulty about continuing the demolition of unfit property is re-housing the tenants to be displaced, for, in spite of the Council's prodigious efforts since the war in building houses, pressure on the waiting list remains unabated. The disparity between the rents of most potentially unfit houses and the accommodation into which the tenants would have to be moved is a further barrier to the continuation and expansion of this work.

A comprehensive report to the Council submitting that not only further Municipal House building but also some form of rent rebate system would have to be considered if this work were to continue, was made.

Its implications are under consideration by the Council, and it is hoped that as a result, it will be possible to make further progress in this field.

During the year, a start was made on the demolition of derelict warehouse type buildings in the Hungate Lane area, which the Council acquired in 1956 with a view to the clearance and re-development of the area.

The following is a record of work carried out under the Demolition and Closing provisions of the Housing Act since the War.

Houses demolished	44
Houses thoroughly re-conditioned as an alternative to demolition	5
Demolition Orders served, but houses still occupied	11
Demolition Order served, tenant re-housed but demolition not yet practicable	11
Property acquired by Council with a view to re-development	9
Closing Orders served and premises no longer used for human habitation	4
Closing Order served, premises still occupied	1
	<hr/>
	85
	<hr/>

Housing Repairs

Notices were served on the owners of twenty-four houses during the year requiring the execution of repairs.

Improvement Grants

'Standard' Improvement grants were made in respect of 12 houses during the year, and Discretionary Grants in 7 instances.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1958

Almost all food preparing premises in the Borough were inspected during the year, and attention was drawn to minor infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Written notices were served requiring the execution of the following work:-

Provide constant hot water	1
Provide new dust bins	2
Cleanse and repair sanitary accommodation	1
Improve sanitary accommodation	1
Provide sink and hot and cold water supply	1
Replaster and re-decorate walls and ceiling	1

DAIRIES

There are two dairies in the Borough pasteurising and distributing tuberculin tested milk. In co-operation with the County Health Officer, they were regularly visited.

A third dairy produces tuberculin tested milk and is under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Council having little control over the premises.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are three slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Two are connected to local butchery businesses, and supply meat only to Beccles and the surrounding area.

During the year, the Council submitted their Report under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, requiring extensive improvements to these premises. It is pleasing to report the full co-operation of the proprietors, and the completion of the work required of them. They have in fact gone further than the Act required by providing cold storage accommodation for carcasses and offals - a provision which the Medical Officer of Health and I consider essential, and which it is perhaps surprising that the Act did not make obligatory.

The third slaughterhouse is a recent and considerable addition to the industry of the Borough, its products being sent primarily to large manufacturing firms, not only throughout this Country, but also to the Continent. As it was built since the publication of the Government's draft proposals in respect of Slaughterhouses, care was of course taken to ensure that it complied with them.

Meat Inspection

It will be appreciated from the foregoing remarks that meat inspection is a major Public Health function, being virtually a full-time job for one official. The Council therefore employ Captain J. C. Taylor, M.R.C.V.S., Mr. P. F. Roe, M.R.C.V.S., and Mr. M. P. Kearns, M.R.C.V.S. (part time), exclusively for this work. One of them and the Public Health Inspector are responsible for meat inspection on alternate weeks.

All carcasses and offals were inspected before release, the following being the statistical details of that work:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. Killed	7,803	356	4,482	1,666	14,307
No. Inspected	7,803	356	4,482	1,666	14,307

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	26	-	4	3	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,938	-	792	34	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	25.17%	-	17.75%	2.5%	

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	27	3	-	1	
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	172	5	-	12	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.5%	2.2%	-	0.78%	

Cysticercosis

Carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigeration	6	-	-	-	
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	

The foregoing figures of condemnation in respect of Tuberculosis call for amplification.

The proprietor of the largest slaughterhouse has contracted with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to slaughter animals re-acting positively to ante-mortem testing in Norfolk and Suffolk. Needless to say this has had the effect of inflating the figures of condemnations for tubercular conditions. Tuberculosis in animals other than those known to be suffering from the disease before slaughter is becoming a rarity.

Hygiene of Meat Production

It may be of interest to place on record that at the largest slaughterhouse in the Borough, the use of the 'wiping cloth' during dressing has been abolished and the spraying of meat substituted.

Furthermore, carcasses are stored in the large chill room as soon as practicable after inspection in an effort to inhibit the growth of organisms.

In co-operation with Dr. J. M. S. Dixon, Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich, research is being undertaken into the incidence of salmonella in cattle, and the possible dissemination of this infection in the slaughterhouse.

OTHER FOODS

Four hundred tins or packs of foods of various kinds were examined and condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the year.

Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned meat suitable for pharmaceutical purposes was retained in a refrigerator under lock and key pending collection.

Other condemned meat was treated at the By-Products plant at Common Lane.

Other condemned food was burned and buried under supervision on the Council's refuse tip.

RODENT CONTROL

One full time rodent operator was employed throughout the year.

The sewers of the Borough were treated four times in an effort to lessen the rat population.

Judging by observation and the number of complaints received, there has been a very considerable reduction in infestations by rats in recent years.

FACTORIES

There are fifty-three factories with Mechanical Power in the Borough and one factory without.

No notices were served under the provisions of the Factories Acts, 1931 to 1959 during the year.

E. H. CRANMER.
Public Health Inspector.

June, 1961.



